

## EMS Handoff of Highly Infectious Disease Patients to BMC

1. BMC is notified by Mass Department of Public Health (MDPH) and the Boston Public Health Commission (BPHC) with a referral of a suspect case in the community or at another hospital.
2. The individual receiving the notification (Infectious Disease, BMC Epidemiology, BMC ED attending, or BMC administration) will activate the Ebola reporting protocol.
3. BPHC requests transport assistance from Boston Emergency Medical Services (BEMS). Whenever possible and if the patient condition allows, transport of the patient will be delayed until Room 8 in the BMC 5E MICU is ready to receive the patient. If the patient condition requires more urgent care, the patient will be managed in the BMC ED until the ICU is ready.
4. BEMS coordinates the transport of the patient to BMC.
5. The BMC ED will be given an entry note via the C-Med Radio by BEMS when transport is in progress. BEMS will provide information on the patient's illness and acuity.
6. Upon first notification, the Emergency Department will initiate "Biological Ambulance Entry" protocol.
  - a. Call the control center at [REDACTED] and request assistance from facilities to deploy the BMC Zumro decon tent in the ambulance bay.
  - b. The Ebola prep team will be notified via Send Word Now by the hospital emergency manager or designee. The group will include housekeeping, and materials management to bring PPE and waste management supplies.
  - c. Preparation of Arrival Area
    - i. The BMC Decon tent will be deployed to the far right 2 ambulance parking spots (nearest to the old ED walk-in entrance).
    - ii. Orange cones (available with the decon equipment) will be used to delineate the point at which the patient will be handed off from BEMS (in the contaminated "Hot zone") to BMC staff (in the non-contaminated "warm zone").
    - iii. Trash and doffing supplies will be made available inside the tent
      1. 2 biohazard boxes with 3 biohazard bags in each will be placed in the tent for EMS doffing.
      2. At least 2 chairs will be placed inside the tent.
      3. Sanitizer on mobile stands will be placed inside the tent
  - d. 2 nurses (transport team) will Don PPE and await the arrival of the ambulance in the demarcated "clean" area (hospital entrance side) of the tent.
7. The ambulance will back up to the tent entrance (street side).
8. Patient will be moved from the ambulance into the tent by BEMS
  - a. If patient is Ambulatory, patient will walk out of ambulance and be escorted by BEMS to the demarcated hot zone in the tent.
  - b. If patient is Non-ambulatory, patient will be removed from the ambulance on EMS stretcher and brought in to the demarcated hot zone in the tent.

9. The patient will be transferred to BMC staff who will be waiting in the demarcated cold zone inside the tent with a wheel chair or stretcher depending on the patient's condition.
10. The **patient will remain clothed in the full protective Tyvek suit until moved into negative flow isolation.** The 2 staff nurses will move the patient to the area designated for clinical care (ED Room 9 or 10, 5E MICU room 8). One nurse will enter the negative flow isolation room to assist the patient. The Second nurse will standby as the buddy.
11. BEMS will remain at the tent for ambulance clean up and doffing of PPE
  - a. EMS will remove plastic sheeting from their ambulance and discard in the provided red bag waste.
  - b. The Ambulance will be cleaned per EMS protocol
  - c. Once ambulance cleaning is complete, the ambulance doors will be closed. BEMS will enter the tent and close the zipper at the ambulance side of the Decon tent
  - d. BEMS will doff according to their protocol and discard in the inner bag of the triple bagged bio hazard waste container.
  - e. BEMS will close and tie the inner red bag.
  - f. EMS will remove their inner gloves and discard into the open middle red bag of the bio hazard waste container.
  - g. EMS will exit the Decon tent via the hospital side and zip the tent closed
  - h. EMS may then enter ED to wash hands.
  - i. BMC Environmental Services staff will respond to disinfect the tent and remove the trash according to the BMC Ebola Waste Management protocol.